



THE GSCHRONICLES

The Official Newsletter of the NIH Graduate Student Community

April 2018

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Upcoming OITE Events

Graduate Student Discussion Group

Apr 03, 10, 17, and 24, 2018 4:15 pm - 5:15 pm

OITE Conference Room

Baltimore: Improving Mentoring Relationships

Apr 12, 2018 10:00 am - 11:30 am

BRC 3C211 (Baltimore)

Finding Mentors & Building Networks : featuring Dr. Susan

Gottesman & Dr. Michael Gottesman

April 16, 2018 12:00pm-1:00pm

Graduate Student Lounge, Building 10 Rm 1N263

Industry: Negotiating Offers And Making The Transition

Apr 25, 2018 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Building 49, Room 1A50

Workplace Dynamics V: Diversity In A Multicultural Society

Apr 27, 2018 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Building 50, Room 1227

Baltimore: Choosing From Multiple Options; Career Decision

Making Skills

May 03, 2018 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Conference room 3A519 (Baltimore campus)

Tips For Mentoring A Summer Intern And Leading A Summer

Journal Club

May 03, 2018 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Building 50, Room 1227

11th Annual NIH Career Symposium

May 18, 2018 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Natcher Conference Center, Building 45

Tune In And Take Care: Managing Stress And Promoting

Wellbeing

May 24, 2018 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Building 40, Rm 1201

Upcoming Events:

Graduate Student Discussion Group — each Tuesday in April at 4:15-5:15, OITE Conference Room

*event registration required

Finding Mentors and Building Networks — Mon, April 16 at 12-1pm, Graduate Student Lounge

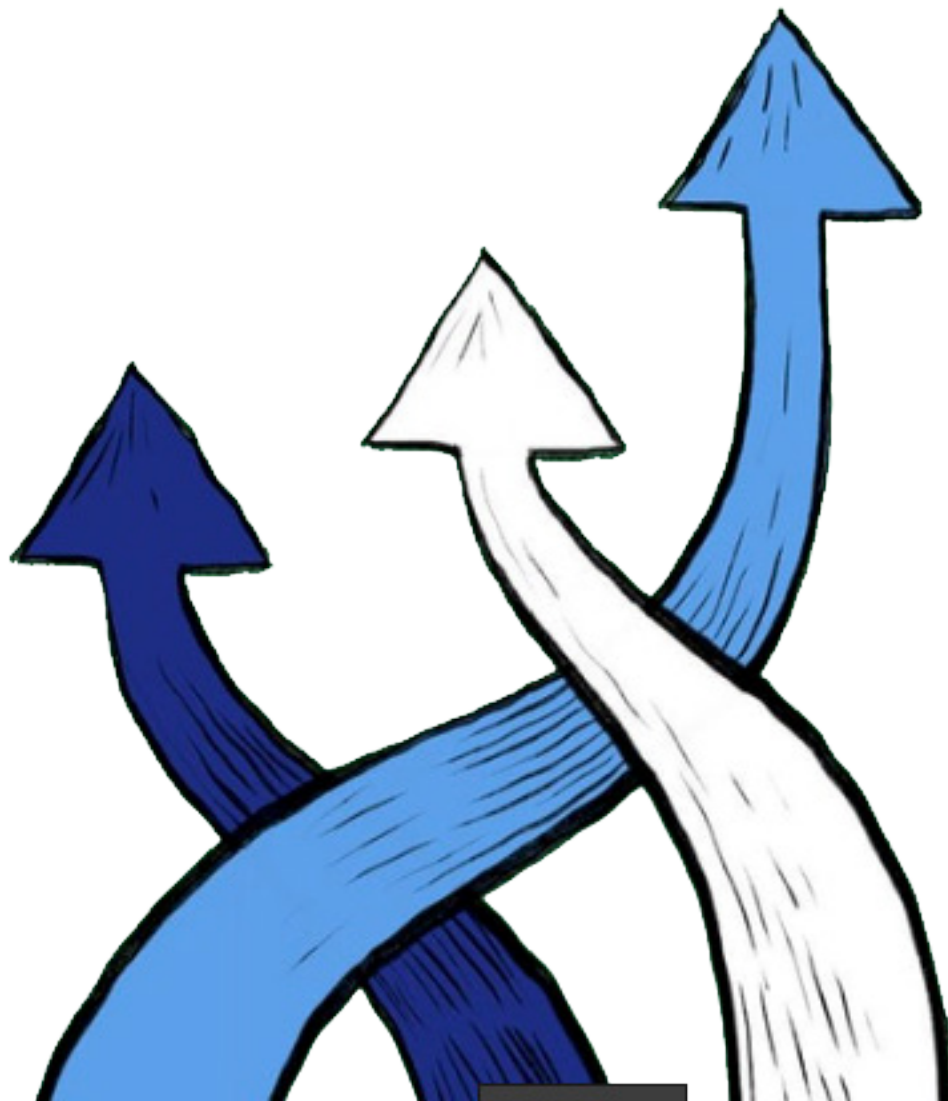
Featuring Dr. Susan Gottesman (Distinguished Investigator at NCI) and Dr. Michael Gottesman (Deputy Director for NIH Intramural Research)

Volunteering at Manna Food Bank — Thurs, April 19 at 7-9pm, Kiss & Ride Lot

Register at <https://www.training.nih.gov/events/upcoming>

Careers Outside Academia

A new series exploring scientific career paths



Industrial Careers for Science Graduates:

Analytics, Data Science, and Science Consulting

Mohsin Khan

According to the National Science Foundation (NSF)'s 2016 survey, 973, 602 PhDs were awarded in the United States during the last two decades. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields have seen a tremendous growth - over 50% increase - in number of total PhDs (1996-2016). According to earlier estimates (2013), about a quarter of doctorates were able to get jobs as tenure-track faculty while about half of PhDs left academia. In meantime, several non-academic careers have evolved and expanded in scope to incorporate analytics, data science, and scientific consulting and serve as an excellent fit for recently minted STEM PhDs. In the first part of our series, we will talk about "Analytics, Data Science, and Scientific Consulting" as an exciting alternative career choices. We are fortunate to have Rajni Samavedam (right), a Principal with Booz Allen Hamilton, for a discussion on alternative career choices.



Mohsin: ***Hi Rajni, thank you very much for agreeing to contribute to the Graduate Student Chronicles. Can you please begin by briefly describing your career journey and give us an idea of your trajectory, how you came to the decision to study public health, and how you found or created job opportunities.***

Rajni: As an undergraduate, I studied biology and chemistry but I also took classes such as medical sociology, cell biology of the disease, women's health, and medical ethics. These classes opened my eyes into health as a state of well-being – to shorten the World Health Organization's definition. My classes and experiences led me to think more deeply about population health, and ultimately I choose to explore the field of public health. I focused on epidemiology, as I was interested in patterns and origin of disease and conditions. This interest and the ability to problem solve and "connect the dots" is something I do today as a scientific consultant.

During my time in graduate school I was fortunate enough to connect with Visions Worldwide – a group at Harvard University. Together we started a nonprofit called Swasthya to serve a rural area of India. The organization provided health education for women and their children. I am extremely proud of what the organization has been able to accomplish over the years as education is a key factor to better health potential.

After completing my master's degree, I joined the State of Georgia as their State Health Strategic Planner where I was exposed to how state government operates. In this role, I sat in on development of programs for newborn hearing screening and immunization guidelines. Here I also was exposed to the field of informatics. My colleagues and I worked to define, normalize and set standards around the data the state collected. And then worked to share those data throughout the system so that departments could make informed decisions about what programs to start and where to invest. My experiences fueled my interest in the research process – how data are used to make health decisions. Afterwards I continued my career working for a contract

research organization running studies, primarily for the National Cancer Institute. Here I worked in pediatrics, international health, and became well-versed in study design, survey, and clinical research form design and development. I also worked closely with statisticians and computer programmers to execute on a study plan. This piqued my interest in technology and in wanting to understand the big picture of research and clinical practice and the impact it has on policy and health overall.

Through chance, I found my way to Booz Allen Hamilton. And I just liked the variety of projects they managed for the federal government. I appreciated the team-oriented environment, and I liked seeing the different disciplines come together to solve tough problems. Booz Allen is a place where our work is mission-driven, where innovation is our passion, and where collective ingenuity is celebrated. Our purpose is to empower people to change the world. You can't ask for a better purpose. And over the years, I've helped grow our presence in research, life sciences, and at the NIH.

Over the years, I have taken chances in different facets of health and science. But there is something about intuition - that voice in your head. I remember in college a mentor of mine said, "two of the worst words in the English language are 'should have'." That has stuck with me. I don't want to have regrets and in my career, I have looked at everything as an opportunity and an ability to keep learning while also having an impact on the field.

Mohsin: *In recent years, the consulting profession has considerably expanded in scope and has incorporated analytics, data science, science/non-science software solution development, as well as scientific consulting. In your opinion, what are the changes that really helped the field grow and develop in a scientific direction?*

Rajni: Interestingly over a century ago, Edwin Booz pioneered the field of management consulting. There may be a few definitions out there on management consulting but at the heart it is about helping organizations improve performance. And while that could be interpreted as an entire organization, it applies to missions and programs. The increasing pace of information generation and absorption, the growing and dynamically changing population, the speed of technology innovation, and the expansion to multidisciplinary fields have all led to the need for more scientific consultation (Not to also mention the costs associated with scientific pursuit!). It is not enough anymore to come at a scientific problem with only one discipline in mind. For example, multi-omic approaches spanning Genomics, proteomics, and related fields need biologists, informaticists, and technology gurus to come together to develop methods to manage the data and facilitate data-driven healthcare.

When you think of the time it takes to get a drug to market – the problems aren't always rooted in the science. Sometimes the issues are with processes, organizational dynamics, inefficient infrastructure and outdated technology, lack of adoption of new practices, etc. These are all about performance, and scientific organizations are not immune from having the problems that management consulting addresses.

It's hard to predict the future, but we need to make sure we have ethics and governance to help guide as with technological advancements. Problems that develop as technology improves cannot be considered in isolation – for example data storage is not just about storage, and not just about a server capacity issue. There should be ways to store the data with meaning and provenance, and ways to retrieve and use the data in a timely and meaningful manner.

Mohsin: ***Science consulting requires coordinating multiple team members and stakeholders. What are some of the skillsets future job seekers should work on/build to facilitate a successful transition from academics to the field of analytics, data science, and consulting?***

Rajni: When I hear the word skillsets, it reminds me of a trade or subject matter. Yes, future consultants should look to understand what the industry is talking about – so depending on their project or position they should educate themselves on data science or business process reengineering, for example. But some of the skills current scientists seeking jobs in consulting should develop are ones that many scientists at least in this generation are learning already. For example, how to collaborate as a team, leadership skills, and presentation skills targeted at making an effective arguments. And how to problem solve when there isn't always a working hypothesis.

Mohsin: ***In academic settings, mentee-mentor relationships are stressed and facilitated to help both achieve their career goals. Are there similar opportunities for mentorship in consulting? What kind of career support is available to the employees for their successful transition in industry?***

Rajni: Absolutely. At Booz Allen we encourage all levels to have mentors and to mentor. And we encourage our team members to have more than one mentor. For example, I have people I turn to for different skills such as leadership, business development, and career advice. We have formal mentoring programs and there are informal arrangements as well. The point is to have purposeful relationships – and to gain multiple perspectives – like data points for your life. And a mentor-mentee relationship isn't bound by an organization's structure. It's important to reach out beyond one's lab or agency. Look at industry, professional societies, charitable organizations. I have individuals I speak with from other organizations that sometimes help me just gain new insights.

Mohsin: ***What are the typical day-to-day activities for a consultant, data scientist, or analytics-focused employee? This will be very helpful for many job seekers, who would like to relate to the environment and visualize themselves in one or more roles.***

Rajni: Everyone has a charge and a purpose. You may be working on one or more projects that require your skills in data science, for example. You are most likely working in teams and have a client challenge to work on. On one project I oversee, we have data scientists who are working on ingest of data from sunsetted research studies. They have a set of activities associated with ingest of the data that they have planned and worked with the clients to validate. But they are constantly looking at ways to improve the process or perhaps they are dealing with some data that are particularly challenging so they reach to colleagues for help.

Consulting projects are time bound and work product-focused. And while this varies from engagement to engagement, what is usually constant is the team-oriented environment, the strive to deliver high quality, and the thinking about what is next – and how can we innovate.

Mohsin: ***What specific tips you would give to someone, who is trying to transition from research/academics to consulting without any prior experience?***

Rajni: Reach out and talk to people. Don't be shy about what you don't know. For person you speak with, ask them who else you should be speaking with. Recognize that while your subject matter expertise will be

and is the center of who you are, you need to be able to articulate skills in a different way. For example, collect the stories about your experience with analysis (and this does not have to be quantitative) or where you showed leadership skills. Explain how you have mentored students. Write down how you tackled a challenging problem. Sometimes by doing some self-reflection, you can elucidate the consulting skills that you perhaps never thought you had.

Mohsin: *If you could give yourself one piece of advice when beginning your career, what would it be?*

Rajni: I will take the liberty of stating two things. First is keeping up on networking. I didn't realize how important this was until many years into my career, because I looked at each position in each organization I joined in isolation. I needed to keep up on relationships for both personal and professional growth. The second is to advocate for yourself and your career needs. Early in my career, I felt too junior to state what I wanted to accomplish and thought it my "place" to do what those more senior to me expected. And while there is always someone more experienced than you, it does not mean that you should not talk about your career aspirations and goals. And advocate for yourself – which can mean something such as putting yourself forward to take on a new challenge or assignment.

Mohsin: *The last question I'll leave to your discretion; please share suggestions, advice, and any anecdote or personal story that fits with today's discussion.*

Rajni: I would share that science consulting is both tough and rewarding. You do have to try to keep pace with emerging methods, techniques and tools so that you can advise clients as to what they need to consider for the future. But when you can see the impact, it is amazing. And especially in science and health, where you know what you are doing could lead to the next discovery, cure, or therapy.

I think for anyone interested in a consulting position, that you should not only let the specific scientific discipline determine where you work. But you do have to look at an organization's mission, how it treats its people, and the drive toward making a difference.

On behalf of NIH Graduate Student Council (GSC), we would like to thank you Rajni for your time. NIH graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and scientists look forward to your panel on "Careers in Consulting" to be held during 2018 NIH Career Symposium on May the 18th.
More details on www.training.nih.gov/nih_career_symposium

Student Spotlight



Please state your name, GPP program and year in the program. I'm François De Mets, a third-year international student enrolled in the individual NIH Graduate Partnership Program. This partnership allows me to conduct my doctoral research both at NIH and at my university, the University of Brussels in Belgium. My doctoral research in the Biochemical Genetics Section of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology (NCI) focuses on the post-transcriptional regulation of carbon central metabolism by bacterial small RNAs and its role on virulence.

How would you describe your graduate school experience so far? Since a master's degree is required to matriculate into the PhD program in Belgium, I never experienced the stress of rotations and classes/exams together. Instead, the doctoral program is entirely devoted to laboratory research – typically four years – upon receiving a master's degree. In general, the absence of laboratory rotations can lead to uncertainties if an individual's prior research experiences do not align with long-term research interests – fortunately, this was not the case for me.

Is there anything you would have done differently? Is there anything that you have changed since you first started? I regret that I did not immediately utilize all the available resources provided by the NIH. During my first year here, I did not participate in any events – almost always justifying this by the lack of time in my schedule. This was definitely a mistake. After attending several social events, I encountered other students that were experiencing similar challenges and frustrations. Many became close friends. More importantly, by engaging in these events, I learned to better manage the time I had in the lab!

Is there anything you do when lab/experiments are stressing you out? I usually walk downstairs, get a coffee, and relax by meeting and chatting with a friend – discussing everything but science! Even if momentary, this can totally clear my mood and cheer me up. On days spent writing for hours in front of my computer, I like to change my work environment and move to our conference room or the NIH library. This helps me to de-stress and re-focus my energy.

Do you have a favorite spot on campus? Why? My favorite spot is the Anita Roberts garden located between building 37 and 35A. This area has been recently renovated and has a lot of benches surrounded by many trees and flowers. This is definitely the perfect spot during the summer when you need a break to pent up some frustration! When the weather is less than optimal, I visit the top floors of building 35A!

What OITE resources have you used, if any? What OITE events have you attended, if any?

What did you get out of these programs/resources? OITE provides an impressive array of resources for graduate students, either on their website or through seminars. The entire staff is extremely supportive of all the students on the campus, helping them with any professional or personal issues. Do not hesitate to contact the Phils, they are there for you! I personally attended several events such as the Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Fridays with Phils, and the “improving mentoring relationships” workshop. By attending these events, I have improved my oral and written communication skills and also learned to be more organized and effective.

How do you participate in the NIH/OITE/GPP community on campus? Last year, I joined the Mentorship, Volunteering and Outreach Committee of the NIH Graduate Student Council, where I organize volunteering at the Manna Food Bank. It is an excellent opportunity to give back to the community by fighting hunger. While this event reminds me of how fortunate I have been thus far, it also instills a sense of responsibility to contribute to those less fortunate and those experiencing hardships.

What did you find was the most difficult thing about transitioning into graduate school at the NIH? What was the easiest/most fun part? The most challenging aspect in transitioning to the NIH was for me, as an international student, leaving my home country, friends and family and immersing myself in an unfamiliar environment. European countries are predominately small in size, allowing us to remain close to relatives throughout our careers. However, I quickly realized that the advantages of conducting my doctoral research at NIH outweighed the disadvantages of living in an unfamiliar setting. I am quite fortunate to have access to state-of-the-art technology and to be surrounded by experienced, passionate scientists willing to share their knowledge and expertise.

What words of wisdom would you give to new students at the NIH? I would suggest incoming graduate students to balance work with their personal life. I think early in our graduate studies, we tend to neglect our life outside the lab both because we are so passionate about our work and because we are terrified of not completing our PhD program. However, I have noticed that my productivity actually decreased the longer I was in the lab due to distractions. Stay organized and focused!

What hobbies or activities outside of the lab do you enjoy? When I am not pipetting, I try to get outside with my friends and explore DC. There are so many different activities occurring each week that allow me to meet individuals from diverse backgrounds. I love diversity! In addition, I enjoy learning new languages (currently studying Korean), working out at the gym, learning about finance and trying new restaurants!

Share any dream of a destination to visit, activity to do, or anything else you have thought of becoming/doing/visiting. My biggest dream would be to take a full month to visit cities in Asia such as Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai or Saigon! My parents promised me many years ago that once I complete my studies, we will travel to these cities...hope they did not forget! My pie in the sky dream would be to become a billionaire, if just for one day, and distribute all the assets to nonprofit organizations and needy individuals. Restoring some joy of life on people's face is priceless!

Want to be our next Student Spotlight?
Email us at GSChronicles@od.nih.gov

14th Annual NIH Graduate Student Research Symposium

Allison Dennis

The 14th Annual NIH Graduate Student Research Symposium was hosted by the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) on February 22, 2018. From the minute I walked into the auditorium to start the day, I was reminded of why this is one of my favorite annual activities as a graduate student at the NIH. My friend was yelling with endearing enthusiasm across the room for me to come sit with him. I was filled with the comradery I can only imagine is a normal part of the typical graduate school experience. But in a program where we are usually scattered across several NIH campuses surrounded by postbacs, postdocs, and PIs, the opportunity to share the day surrounded by fellow students is special. On this one day each year, the observation of graduate students hits a rare critical mass, as the lure of travel awards and excellent speakers draws us all away from the bench to gather in each other's company.

Director Dr. Sharon Milgram opened the day with what after four years in my program has come to feel to me like a heart-to-heart. Writing this, I am grasping to remember the specific words Dr. Milgram shared, but what has clearly stuck with me the last month is the feeling. Dr. Milgram is always willing to share something she is personally going through. By doing so, she grants the audience permission to silently acknowledge their own personal challenges. For a group of diverse, driven, graduate students at what usually feels like a critical junction in their lives this can be borderline therapeutic. She ended her opening with a Nelson Mandela quote, gathered from a graffitied wall on her trip to see the prison where he was held in South Africa, "the world is truly round and seems to start and end with those we love."

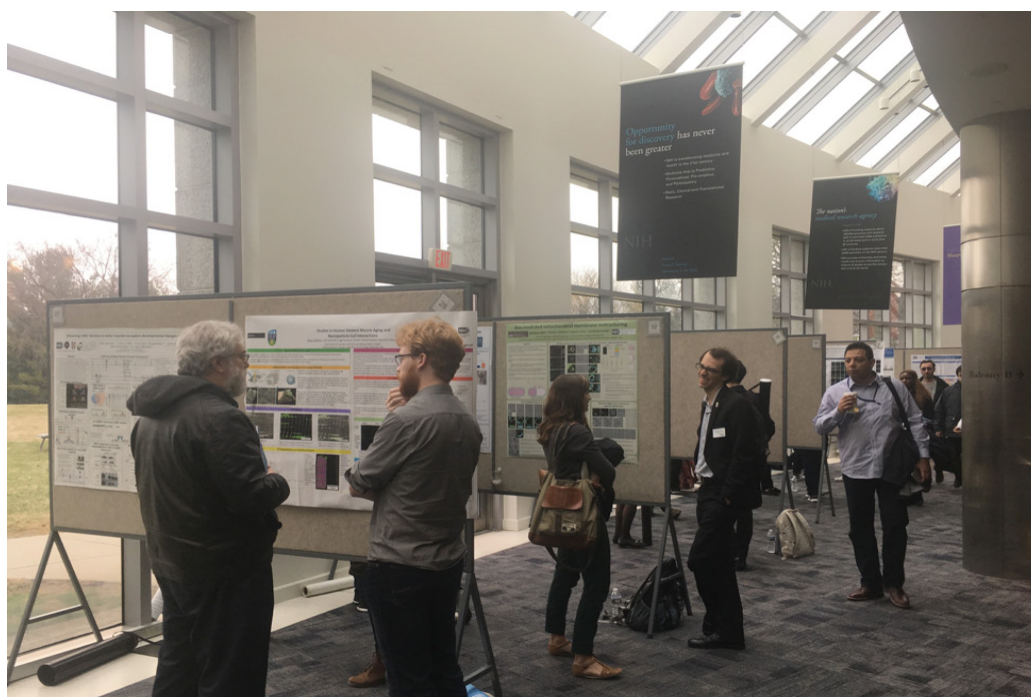
Nobel Prize winner Dr. Eric Betzig delivered a truly memorable keynote. While his research is certifiably impressive, what impressed me the most was the encouragement he wove into his talk. Dr. Betzig's personal style seems to be rooted in a brutal honesty that does not fall short of self-deprecation while amplifying his hard-won approval of his colleagues in the field. He took the audience on a journey that started with him quitting his day job and building a microscope with fellow prize winner, Dr. Harold Hess, in his living room. He showed a photograph taken during that time that captured a hodgepodge of lab equipment strewn about elegant wooden furniture, that seemed to scream "YOU CAN DO IT!" or at least that's what I heard from inside my angsty fourth-year mind. Despite being a headliner, Dr. Betzig shared the spotlight by instilling the legacy of his late colleague Mats Gustafsson, who he personally feels made an incredible, yet often overlooked, contribution to the field of microscopy through the development of Structured Illumination Microscopy. Throughout his talk, Betzig had the generosity to tie themes from his slides back to student's research he heard highlighted while judging the elevator pitch competition. I can only covet the pride these students felt at knowing that this Nobel Prize Winning judge had truly listened to and valued the research they presented.

The afternoon brought a barrage of predoc talent. With well over 100 posters, it is undeniable the contributions graduate students are making across campus. The four student oral presentations highlighted a very diverse set of projects, so impressive in their depth, I began to regret my decision to leave the lab, if only for a few hours.



As we rounded the corner into the awards portion of the day, I once again found myself steeped in comradery. The Outstanding Mentor Awards never fail to bring out the best in people. I love the dynamic that unfolds as a blushing mentor is called to the stage by their beaming trainee. This year a common theme echoed across all of the mentors' words: mentorship is a two-way street. Each mentor seemed to feel that they thrived when giving advice to a student that was thoughtful enough to transform it into action and immediately ask for more.

Finally came the Graduation Ceremony, in a style unique to the NIH Graduate Partnership Program. In the absence of a dean, each student's rite of passage is celebrated by a handshake from Dr. Michael Gottesman, the NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research, who played an instrumental role in the creation of the Graduate Partnerships Program, and Dr. Sharon Milgram who oversees its continued success. What makes me the happiest at each year's graduation ceremony are the babies and families that join us in attendance. To me their presence is a tremendous accolade to the graduate community at NIH and leads to my personal retelling of Nelson Mandela's quote: the world is truly round and seems to start and end with those we love, but sometimes there is a PhD somewhere in the middle.



2017 End of Year Report for NIH Graduate Student Council

Through the dedication of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) committees, this year has provided numerous opportunities to strengthen the graduate student community at the NIH. The Graduate Student Lounge continues to connect students through partnership program meetings, meditation sessions, GSC meetings, and additional council planned activities. The combined GSC and Graduate Student Seminar Series (GS3) are regularly attended, and new opportunities are coming for graduate students to present their ideas and research to peers in additional settings.

Our Social Committee continued to plan events throughout the year with great turnouts. These events included a ski trip to Whitetail Mountain, camping trip to Point Lookout, Jazz in the Garden, summer BBQ, bike rides, trivia nights, and social hours. The variety in events helped bring in new participation from graduate students. Events continue to be announced through the various communication methods, such as a weekly newsletter, Facebook group, and Google Calendar.

The Community Service, Outreach, and Mentorship Committee became more active with two new committee members. Many community service opportunities were offered to graduate students throughout the year, including Postbac Poster Day judging, Take Your Child to Work Day, NIH Blood Drive, and Manna Food Bank. The Community Service, Outreach, and Mentorship Committee restarted the mentor lunches this year with a very successful “Finding Mentors and Building Networks” lunch with Dr. Mark Histed and Dr. Helene Rosenberg. These lunches provided a great opportunity for graduate students and principal investigators to interact and develop relationships in an informal setting.

Our Felcom Liaison has maintained active involvement with the NIH postdoctoral fellow council by regularly attending meetings and including graduate students in the Visiting Fellows Committee’s events. Additionally, some of our Social Committee social hours were planned in coordination with postdoctoral fellows. Our FAES Liaison has continued to keep us updated on insurance changes and has allowed us to be involved in the larger NIH community. The Liaison also helped organize a meeting with one of the FAES members to come talk directly to the graduate students and answer questions on insurance and taxes. Our Chronicles committee produced multiple The GSChronicles newsletters this year, giving an update on the various graduate student activities throughout the year.

The Graduate Student Research Symposium saw an increase in participation this year and for the first time was held in conjunction with the Graduate Partnerships Program recruitment week, allowing prospective students to see the wide range of research being done by graduate students across campus. The Graduate Student Retreat was also very successful, focusing on professional development and decision making.

To provide more career development opportunities, the GSC we started seminar series called “PhDs in the Real World” to expose graduate students to the wide variety of jobs they can pursue with a PhD. We held five sessions throughout the year, hearing from a variety of speakers from jobs in academia, government, and industry. These events helped bring new participation from graduate students.

As we end a successful 2017, we look forward to providing more opportunities for graduate students to be involved with the community in the coming year.

**-Carly & Keyla
2017 GSC co-chairs**

Introducing Your 2018 GSC Co-Chairs

We, Laura and Larissa, the 2018 GSC co-chairs are excited to head the GSC this year and we would like to share what is currently going on in the graduate community.

We are very excited to let you know about the great opportunities our council is putting together. First of all, we want to highlight the newly established mentor lunches that have received great attendance. Take the chance to talk to great mentors at the NIH, asking them personal questions about their career as well as getting advice for yourself. Similarly, our “PhDs in the ‘Real World’” series with GPP alumni, allows graduate students to explore careers beyond the bench. Furthermore, our outreach events at Manna Food Bank and blood drives are always very rewarding activities. Check out what your peers are working on by attending our monthly Graduate Student Seminar Series (GS3) or present your research. Come meet your peers at one of our various networking and social events. And lastly keep up to date with what is going on in our graduate community through our monthly Newsletter and The GSChronicles.

Please reach out to us! With great ideas, how to foster the graduate student community at the NIH, or any needs of the graduate students to be addressed. We are always grateful for new input, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved yourself. Even if you do not want to get involved, check out our meetings: you are welcome to attend our monthly GSC meetings and GS3 seminars (last Tuesday of each month, 5-6pm, graduate student lounge-Room 1N263).

Lastly, we want to thank the 2017 GSC co-chairs Carly Starke and Keyla Tumas for their dedication to the community and their great work and achievements. Also, a big thanks to everybody on the council for putting so much effort into growing our graduate community and organizing events.

We hope to hear from you and see you at once of our GSC events!!

**Your 2018 GSC co-chairs,
Laura (fourth year, NICHD/RPI)
& Larissa (third year, NICHD/Bonn)**

GSCcochair@mail.nih.gov



GSC Committee Updates

Social Committee:

The GSC Social Committee hosts a wide variety of events in order to bring the graduate students together and provide an environment where graduate students can take some time away from the bench to relax, have some fun, and interact with other fellows at the NIH! The Social Committee organizes events ranging from social hours, networking events with postdocs, attendance to baseball games, outdoor activities including hikes, bike trips, and camping, trivia nights, board game nights, among others. Our events take place twice a month and we also host two bigger events each year including our upcoming Summer BBQ and holiday party! Be sure to stay connected with the gs-underground & facebook group, and we hope to see you all soon at our social events!

Upcoming events:

Social Hour at Tommy Joe's April 12th

Baseball game at Nat's Park April 27th



Felcom:

The Felcom Liaison represents the graduate student community at the FelCOM (fellows committee-postdocs) meetings. We also advertise the Felcom events, as graduate students are always welcome to attend, as well as we help organize the social networking events between graduate students and postdocs. Be sure to attend these events to meet your fellow peers at the NIH; it's always a great time!!

GS3:

The Graduate Student Seminar Series provides a more formal, yet supportive, environment where you can discuss your work, refine your presentation skills, and receive detailed feedback from fellow graduate students, post-bacs, post-docs, and the occasional staff scientist. This is a fantastic opportunity to reach the broader NIH community while also preparing for that big conference or thesis defense at which you will present. Be sure to attend the remaining GS3 talks for 2018 to hear about your fellow graduate students' research!

2018 GS3 speaker list:

April	2018	Albert Sek
May	2018	Mike Tisza
June	2018	Chinyere Agbaegby
July	2018	Neel Nabar
August	2018	Naemeh Pourshafie
September	2018	Kristoffer Harum Johansen
October	2018	Lampouguin Y. Douli
November	2018	Natalia Schneider
December	2018	Merage Ghane



Community service/Outreach/Mentorship Committee:

The Community Service/Outreach/Mentorship Committee provides graduate students with opportunities to volunteer, mentor, and explore new career paths. This year, we have organized three types of events: 1) Volunteering to help pack food boxes at the Manna Food Bank; 2) a discussion group (“Finding Mentors and Building Networks”) that addresses graduate student success; 3) a seminar series (PhDs in the ‘Real World’) that explores PhD career paths.

We have seen strong graduate student turnout at each of these events. We welcome all graduate students (especially first-timers!) to our next events:

**Finding Mentors and Building Networks –
Mon, April 16 at 12-1pm, Graduate Student Lounge
Volunteering at Manna Food Bank –
Thurs, April 19 at 7-9pm, Kiss & Ride Lot**



FAES Liason:

The FAES liaison represents the graduate students at the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) board meetings to communicate the needs and concerns of the graduate student community. FAES has provided us the amazing Graduate Student Lounge in Building 10, Room 1N263. If you haven't checked it out, be sure to go grab a free cup of coffee and take a break in there!!

PR committee:

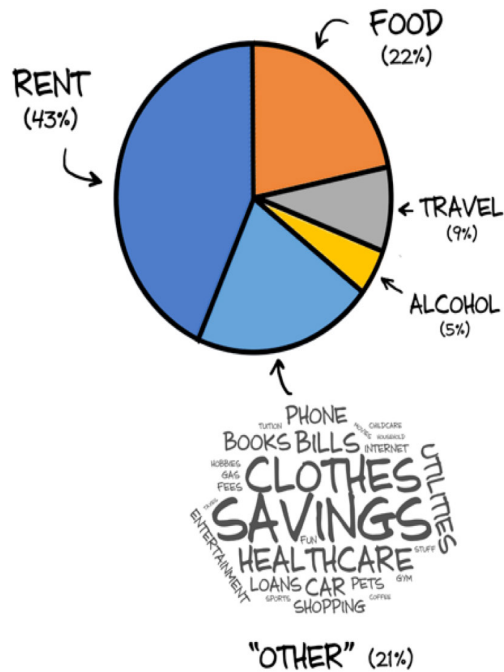
The Public Relations committee advertises the various events happening for the graduate student community, including all GSC events (social, mentoring/community service/outreach/mentoring, and monthly meetings) and the annual graduate student's Retreat and Symposium. Keep up-to-date with all events by joining the Graduate Students Facebook group & the Graduate Student Underground google group. The PR committee also compiles The GSChronicles, a newsletter written by graduate students, for graduate students!

Comics

Piled Higher and Deeper by Jorge Cham

"Stipend Percentages" -originally published 2/5/2018

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR GRAD STIPEND IS SPENT ON...



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

ONLINE SURVEY: 2900 RESPONSES. WORD CLOUD BASED ON WORD FREQUENCY.

"On the Side" -originally published 12/22/2018



The GS Chronicles Team

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Jessica Schneller

Keyla Tumas

Editors and Design

Dana Lewis

Sharon Milgram

Phil Ryan

Phil Wang

Want to contribute?

We are looking for content for the next Chronicles issue!

Artwork: Have a doodle, a comic, or a drawing that you want to share? Showcase your skills to your fellow classmates. When you become famous, the GPP will look really good for publishing your early work.

Creative writing: Write poetry, short stories, or essays and looking for somewhere to disseminate your work? You won't find sci-fi and literature aficionados like us anywhere else!

Student Spotlight: Introduce yourself to your fellow grad students by writing a short blurb about yourself and your thesis work and/or scientific interests. You may just land an awesome collaboration!

Please send your publications, awards, graduation, and birthday announcements to GSChronicles@od.nih.gov for recognition.

We would love to hear from you!